

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney for applicant wishes to thank Examiner Stafira for the courtesy of the interview granted on June 2, 2005. At the interview, the pending claims and the prior art, primarily the Chin '223 patent, were discussed. The undersigned attorney proposed changes to the claims which appeared allowable to the Examiner, pending any additional searching. The amendments are shown in the Listing of the Claims set forth herein.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to add that the reflective enclosure at least partially encloses a sample in a radial direction with no more than a single opening in the radial direction and any such opening being substantially equal or smaller in size than the width of the sample. This amendment clearly differentiates the Chin reference, which does not show a reflective enclosure encircling or enclosing the sample. Rather, Chin merely shows two reflective surfaces being placed of either side of a sample or shows other non-reflective structures. Having the reflective enclosure encircling the sample provides a longer pathlength, collects more of the light and allows improved sensitivity.

Claims 15, 16, 30 and 31 have been amended to delineate that the sample in the enclosure could be something other than a finger. The other amendments to the claims are merely formal matters based on the cancellation of claims 3 and 20.

In light for the foregoing, applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney asks the Examiner to call him by telephone if there are any issues with these amendments.

It is not believed that any fees are due with the filing of this Amendment and Reply; however the Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 16-0085, Reference No. 19971/2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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